

CAPSULE SUMMARY
BA-1335
McKnight House
12801 Harford Road
Fork, Baltimore County
Circa 1814
Private

The McKnight House dates to an early 19th century period of settlement along the former Harford Turnpike and is representative of the many Federal style stone buildings constructed throughout Baltimore County in the first quarter of the 1800s. According to prior documentation, the building served as a tavern along the turnpike, and by 1850, the structure was occupied by George Fletcher. According to the 1850 Atlas of Baltimore County, the village had a post office, a meetinghouse, a tavern, and a number of dwellings. The town continued to remain small in nature and by 1877, there was also a hotel, a store, and the Fork School. At that time, the McKnight House appears to have been occupied by J.F. Skelton, who remained on the property through the early 20th century. In 1915, the map continues to show the schoolhouse, meetinghouse, store, and hotel. However, at this time, there appears to be a more densely populated residential area near the intersection of what is currently Harford and Fork Roads.

The McKnight House is a two-and-a-half-story building of solid random rubble stone. The side gable roof of the five-bay wide building and its two gabled circa 1940 random rubble stone wings is clad with slate tiles and distinguished by three gabled dormers clad with slate tiles and pierced by 6/6 windows with square-edged wood surrounds. The two interior end stretcher bond brick chimneys of the main block were rebuilt in the 20th century. A one-story enclosed porch wing with a shed roof extends from the opposite side of the building. The building fronts southeast on the northwest side of the road and sits back from the road on a sloping hill. The façade, or southeast elevation, of the main block is centrally pierced by a recessed six-panel single-leaf wood door with paneled sides and soffit. Additionally, nine 6/6 windows with square-edged wood surrounds, sills, operable louvered shutters, and brick jack-arched lintels are located on the main block. Also located on the property are two historic outbuildings that date to circa 1814, one that dates to circa 1940, and four late 20th century outbuildings.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-1335

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)

historic

other McKnight House

2. Location

street and number 12801 Harford Road not for publication

city, town Fork vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Malcolm M. McKnight

street and number 12801 Harford Road telephone Not Available

city, town Fork state MD zip code 21501

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 6210 folio 742

city, town Towson tax map 54 tax parcel 55 tax ID number 1113012075

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other: _____

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function		Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> religion	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> social	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Number of Contributing Resources
previously listed in the Inventory

1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-1335

Condition

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The McKnight House is a circa 1814 two-and-a-half-story Federal style building of solid random rubble stone construction joined with roughly coursed, roughly cut stone quoins. The side gable roof of the five-bay wide building is clad with slate tiles and distinguished by three gabled dormers clad with slate tiles and pierced by 6/6 windows with square-edged wood surrounds. The two interior end stretcher bond brick chimneys of the main block were rebuilt in the 20th century. Circa 1940, a two-and-a-half-story, two-bay-wide garage wing with an interior end brick chimney was added to the side of the main block. To the side of this addition was then constructed a one-and-a-half-story, one-bay-square wing. Both additions feature random rubble stone construction and side gable, slate tile-clad roofs. A one-story enclosed porch wing with a shed roof extends from the opposite side of the building. The building fronts southeast on the northwest side of the road and sits back from the road on a sloping hill. The façade, or southeast elevation, of the main block is centrally pierced by a recessed six-panel single-leaf wood door with paneled sides and soffit. Additionally, nine 6/6 windows with square-edged wood surrounds, sills, operable louvered shutters, and brick jack-arched lintels are located on the main block. The two-and-a-half-story wing features a central six-panel single-leaf wood door flanked by two sets of paired six-light casement windows with square-edged wood surrounds and sills and fixed louvered wood shutters. Three 6/6 windows with square-edged wood surrounds, sills, lintels and operable louvered shutters are located on the second story of the wing. Two gabled dormers clad with slate tiles and pierced by 6/6 windows with square-edged wood surrounds project from the wing. The one-story enclosed porch wing features three jalousie metal sash windows.

Also located on the property are two historic outbuildings that date to circa 1814, one that dates to circa 1940, and four late 20th century outbuildings. The circa 1814 ice house is a one-bay-square random rubble stone building that is roughly five feet tall and built into the hillside behind the main building. The icehouse features a front gable roof clad in wood shingles and a small paneled single-leaf wood door with a square-edged wood surround.

The circa 1814 spring house is a one-story, one-bay-square building of random rubble stone construction with a front gable roof clad in asphalt shingles that hangs over the façade and is supported by stone piers.

Located on the hill behind the McKnight House is a log cabin that dates to circa 1940. The building is one story tall and one bay square with a side gable roof clad in asphalt shingles. One exterior end chimney of random rubble stone construction bisects the side elevation. A paneled single-leaf wood door with a square-edged wood surround pierces the façade. A one-story, three-bay-wide porch with a shed roof supported by log posts shelters the façade.

The three circa 1990 one-story outbuildings all feature wood frame construction clad with pressed vertical board siding and asphalt shingle-clad roofs. The stable features a side gable roof, two pressed vertical board divided single-leaf doors and a concrete foundation. The tractor shed has a shed roof, wood block foundation, and an open bay façade. The hay shed has a side gable roof and open bays. The one-bay-square shed is pierced by a pressed vertical board double-leaf door.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-1335

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

Specific dates circa 1814-present

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates circa 1814

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The McKnight House dates to an early 19th century period of settlement along the former Harford Turnpike and is representative of the many Federal style stone buildings constructed throughout Baltimore County in the first quarter of the 1800s. According to prior documentation, the building served as a tavern along the turnpike, and by 1850, the structure was occupied by George Fletcher.¹ In the mid-19th century, the town of Fork was a small rural community near Joppa Road and the Harford Turnpike. According to the 1850 Atlas of Baltimore County, the village had a post office, a meetinghouse, a tavern, and a number of dwellings. The town continued to remain small in nature and by 1877, there was also a hotel, a store, and the Fork School. At that time, the McKnight House appears to have been occupied by J.F. Skelton, who remained on the property through the early 20th century.² In 1915, the map continues to show the schoolhouse, meetinghouse, store, and hotel. However, at this time, there appears to be a more densely populated residential area near the intersection of what is currently Harford and Fork Roads.

¹ Baltimore County Historic Inventory; see also J.C. Sidney, *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys* (Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850).

² *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877); see also *Map of Baltimore County* (Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915).

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-1335

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property .10 Acre
Acreage of historical setting Unknown
Quadrangle name White Marsh Quadrangle scale: 1:24,000

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction circa 1814, the McKnight House has been associated with the 1.43 acres known as tax parcel 55 of map 54, located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 4, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

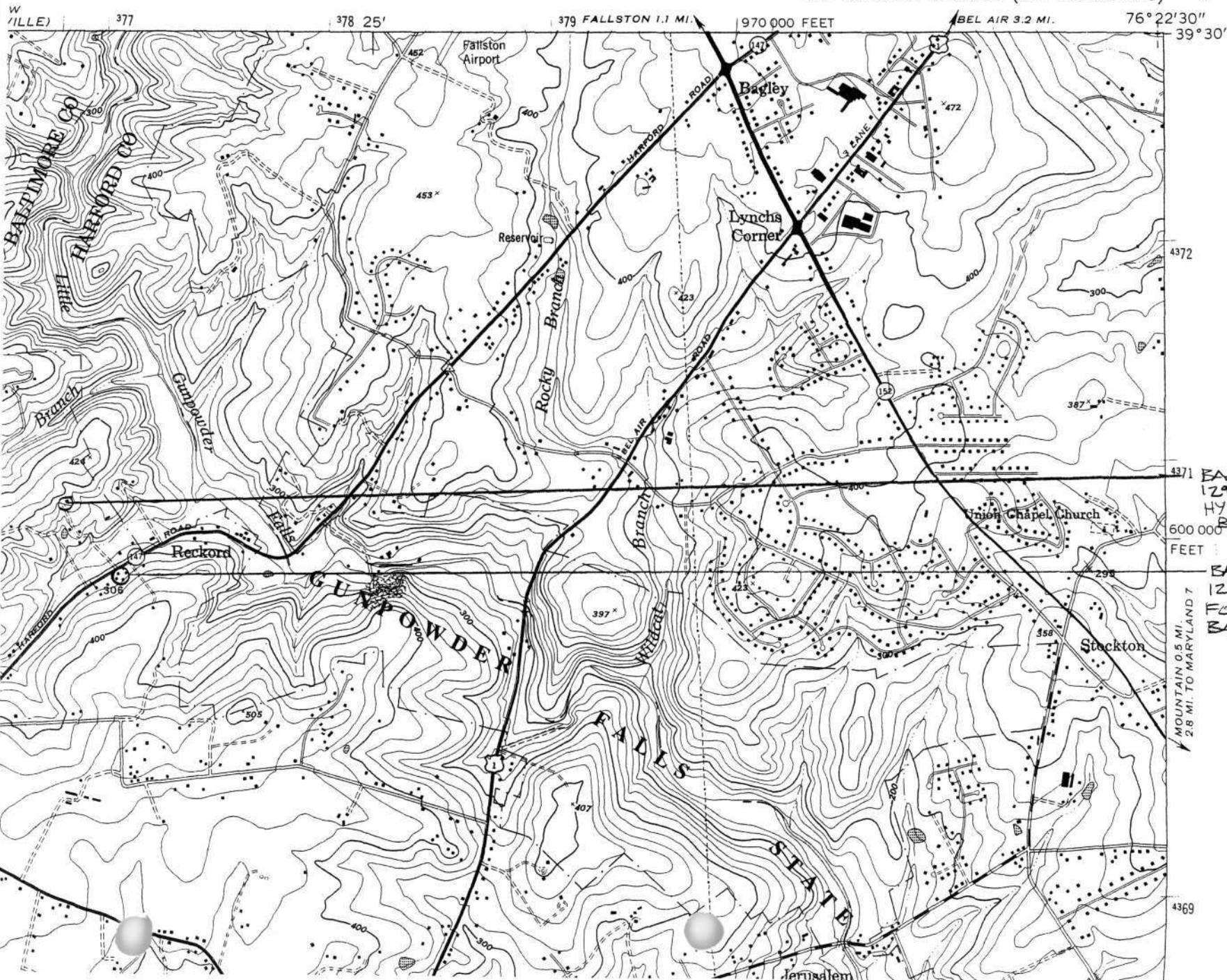
The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600

WHITE MARSH QUADRANGLE
MARYLAND
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5763 III SE
(BEL AIR)



EA-0279
12940 HARFORD ROAD
HYDES
BALTIMORE COUNTY
FEET

EA-1335
12801 HARFORD ROAD
FORK
BALTIMORE COUNTY

MOUNTAIN 0.5 MI.
2.8 MI. TO MARYLAND 7



BA-1335

12801 HARFORD ROAD

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

32001

MD-SH80

NW ELEVATION

1 of 5



BA 1335

12801 HARFORD ROAD

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILER

3/2001

MD. SHED

W CORNER

2 of 5



BA-1335

12801 HARFORD ROAD

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

N CORNER

3 of 5



BA-1335

12801 HARFOLD ROAD

FORK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACELIES

3/2001

MD-SHPD

SE ELEVATION

4 of 5



BA-1335

12801 HARFORD ROAD

FOLK

BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRAILERIES

3/2001

MD-STRO

SPRING HOUSE & ICE HOUSE

5 of 5